

Attachment C: Other Electronics Collection Program Results

Other communities across the U.S. have conducted collection events similar to the Georgia pilot. Their findings were compiled by the Northeast Recycling Council and published in 'Setting up and Operating Electronics Recycling/Reuse Programs: A Manual for Municipalities and Counties. Among the report's findings:

1. Curbside offers the greatest cost effectiveness in terms of cost/ton to operate and tonnage received.
2. The collection system with the greatest per capita results for weight is special event (1.45 pounds per capita, per year.)
3. The most common type of electronics recycling program is an ongoing collection program (47%.)
4. Most programs are extending their services to small businesses and municipal government (84%.)
5. One quarter of programs are not collecting televisions.
6. Half of all programs are charging fees to either residents and/or businesses. The fees range from \$4 to \$30 for CRTs, but the average fee is \$5.
7. Set-up costs for creating a new program are low: almost half were \$1,000 or less. The range of set-up costs, however, was quite dramatic: \$500-\$13,500.
8. 89% of all programs incorporate some type of reuse strategy. Half of all special events are held more than once a year."

The report authors concluded that:

"Overall, while the cost of recycling electronics is certainly higher than tipping fees for solid waste, we were heartened to discover how many programs are being run creatively, with tremendous cost efficiencies and with partnerships. In addition, the public is responding. While per capita collection rates and participation rates remain low, the statistics demonstrate that there is a demand for such services and a willingness to segregate electronics for reuse or recycling. While the participants in programs obviously self-selected, there was also a demonstrated willingness to pay fees. This is significant given the cost of running such programs."

Additional tips from the NERC report:

1. According to NERC's national study, 1% of your area's households will participate in the collection event, but each vehicle will have more than one household's worth of equipment (average of 118 pounds per vehicle.) Expect 1.5 pounds of equipment per capita.

2. The equipment is heavy. Monitors weigh between 30-60 pounds, and console TVs weigh well over 100 pounds. Therefore, have strong staff at the vehicle lanes to unload equipment.
3. Use tables at the collection event. Arrange them beside the vehicle lanes, so staff removing equipment from cars can turn and place the equipment on the tables for sorting and staging. For the next move, staff won't have to pick them off the ground.
4. Don't have short people loading gaylords; this increases risk for back sprains and other injuries.
5. Keep the public in their cars. To accomplish this, you'll need to have someone talking to the driver other than the person who will be moving the equipment. Having the driver complete the survey at this time has been helpful in some collection events.
6. Traffic control is important, because vehicles could back onto the public roadway. Traffic cones, signage and a uniformed police officer can go a long way toward preventing any traffic control problems. Using a uniformed officer is highly recommended, as the uniform gets respect from the driving public, and the officer will be trained and able to deal with any unforeseen situations that may arise.
7. Be prepared to handle cardboard boxes, people won't want them back.

(Copies of the full NERC Report, "Setting Up & Operating Electronics Recycling/Reuse Programs: A Manual for Municipalities & Counties," is available online at www.nerc.org)